

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2506

April 8, 2019

Mr. Charles P. Rettig  
Commissioner  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20224

Mr. Charles P. Rettig,

I am writing on behalf of the hundreds of Missourians who have seen their livelihoods and communities devastated by historic floods along the Missouri River in recent weeks. The hardest-hit Missouri counties reside in my district and many of my constituents now face the task of rebuilding their homes, farms, schools and businesses from the wreckage. In light of these challenging times, I request the Internal Revenue Service provide tax relief for Missourians who live or have a business in afflicted areas.

On March 21, 2019, Missouri Governor Mike Parson declared a state of emergency to allow state agencies to coordinate directly with local jurisdictions in flood recovery efforts. Following this declaration, officials from the Missouri State Emergency Agency (SEMA) were dispatched to impacted areas to conduct damage assessments. To this day, many of the afflicted areas are still underwater and this has made it exceedingly difficult to finalize assessments and determine the total cost of damages quickly.

On April 5, 2019, Governor Parson requested the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) participate in a preliminary joint assessment with SEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration to survey affected counties for individual assistance and public assistance or both in preparation for an official request by Governor Parson for federal disaster assistance. This joint assessment is an important next step in preparing to request federal assistance, however, it is unclear when these assessments will conclude. In 2011, when Missouri last experienced historic floods of this nature, it took the Missouri River months to return to normal levels to allow for full assessment of damages. My constituents are struggling to rebuild their communities now and do not have the time to wait indefinitely for officials to declare for federal disaster assistance.

As the deadline for filing tax returns rapidly approaches and with the ongoing preliminary joint assessment being conducted with FEMA, I respectfully urge you to delay the filing deadline or delay the late filing penalty for those affected by the floods in Missouri. We appreciate your attention to this request and stand ready to assist in any way possible. Should you have any further questions or need assistance from my office please contact Leslie Parker at [Leslie.Parker@mail.house.gov](mailto:Leslie.Parker@mail.house.gov) or 202-225-7041.

Sincerely,



Sam Graves  
Member of Congress